

MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Nov. 8, 2001

Inside the Star

- **Marshall gets go-ahead on new welding technique, page 5**
- **New Wellness Center to open early 2002, page 10**
- **American Education Week marked Nov. 11-17, page 2**
- **ASME honors Jan Davis, page 3**

20 contractors selected for specialized engineering, project planning support

from Marshall's Procurement Office

The Marshall Center recently selected 20 contractors to receive Blanket Purchase Agreements for specialized engineering and project planning support.

These agreements will supplement existing engineering support provided by Sverdrup Technology Inc. under the Marshall Center's engineering, science and technical services contract by making available the unique expertise and capabilities of these 20 firms to the

Center's product line directorates.

The agreements will enable the Marshall Center to fill critical requirements with the best industry talent available while realizing the schedule and cost benefits that increased competition promotes. The agreements also provide the Marshall Center with an opportunity to increase its industrial base by allowing firms that have not traditionally done a large amount of work with the Center to compete for new task orders. These

See Agreements on page 4

Will help improve safety, reduce costs

Shuttle motor test Nov. 1 successful

by Lynnette Madison

Data looks good on the static test of an engineering test motor for the Space Shuttle's Reusable Solid Rocket Booster that was fired the full duration of 123.2 seconds Nov. 1, at a Utah test facility.

The approximate two-minute test duration is the same length of time the motors perform during Space Shuttle flights.

Results from the test — conducted at the Promontory, Utah, facilities of ATK Thiokol Propulsion, an Alliant Techsystems Inc., company — will be used to better understand the capabilities and limits on the Shuttle's Reusable Solid Rocket Motor.

The test began with ignition at approximately 2 p.m. CST.

"Preliminary data shows everything is nominal," said Steve Cash, chief engineer for the Reusable Solid Rocket Motor Project Office at the Marshall Center. "The test went smoothly and the initial look at the data indicates all objectives were achieved."

An open assessment of the test was to be performed Friday.

An engineering test motor offers the opportunity to spot any flaws, as well as to conduct "push-the-envelope" testing to

See Shuttle Motor Test on page 4



Thiokol photo

Spectators watch the static test of an engineering test motor for the Space Shuttle's Solid Rocket Booster — managed by the Marshall Center.

American Education Week marked Nov. 11-17

from the Education Programs Department

Marshall Center Director Art Stephenson signed a proclamation recognizing Nov. 11-17 as American Education Week. Copies of the proclamation are posted on Center bulletin boards. This year's theme is "Together: Making Public Schools Great for Every Child."

Several events have been planned to observe American Education Week in the community.

The annual American Education Week Luncheon will be Nov. 13 at the Huntsville Hilton. Dr. Ann Roy Moore, Huntsville City Schools superintendent, will speak. Area Teachers of the Year and Huntsville Times Golden Apple Award Teachers will be honored.

The dramatic gospel student group, Praise Team, will provide entertainment at the luncheon and the vocal group Selah will perform "America the Beautiful." Tickets — at \$15 each — are available through close of business Friday from the Education Programs Department at 544-8800. Indicate vegetarian prefer-

ence at time of ticket purchase. Vegetable lasagna will be served to those who order vegetarian meals. Channel 48's Lee Marshall is mistress of ceremonies.

The Education Programs Department invites the Marshall community to attend a celebration/open house at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 14. Dr. Ethel H. Hall, vice president of the Alabama State Board of Education will be the special guest. The Educator Resource Center staff will recognize Marshall volunteers who have provided teacher workshops for the Educator Resource Center over the past year.

The Redstone Arsenal Army Education Center in Bldg. 3222 invites Marshall employees to an Open House from 1-4 p.m. Nov. 15. There will be give-a-ways, finger foods and informational segments including 30-minute Anti-terrorism Awareness classes to help attendees identify potential threats and learn how to talk to children about threat awareness.

For additional information on American Education Week activities, call Marilyn Lewis-Alim at 544-2864.

Contractor, wife spread patriotism in the form of ribbons

by Debra Valine

Growing up a military "brat" is just one reason Ed Kirch considers himself patriotic. He's also an Eagle Scout, as are his father and brothers.

Ed Kirch, a contractor with Lockheed Martin at the Marshall Center, who makes flight composite nose cones for the Shuttle's External Tank, was serving on jury duty when the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks occurred in New York City and Washington, D.C. By the time he had completed those duties and returned home, his wife, Mickey, had decided to make red, white and blue ribbons for family members as a show of patriotism.

What started out as a small operation has grown. After completing the ribbons for the family, the Kirches decided to make ribbons for friends and co-workers, to show that it doesn't cost one red cent to show your pride in America. As of Nov. 5, they had given out more than 1,500 ribbons to the NASA facility alone with more than 1,950 total given away.

While Kirch's patriotism runs deep, he did not serve in the military — other than as a dependent. His dad served a total of 26 years in the military, divided between the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy, and two

wars. Mickey's father is a World War II Navy veteran.

Ed's father passed away in 1992, but Mickey's father loves what they are doing. "He's right tickled. It thrills him to death that we are doing this."

Kirch, who has permission from his Operations Director Charlie Garner, gives the ribbons to co-workers and others while he is on his lunch breaks. They have made three different size ribbons, and they make special ribbons for

firefighters, police officers and families with soldiers serving overseas.

"I gave ribbons with a blue star field over red and white stripe to the Space Shuttle and Space Station crews that have visited the Marshall Center since the attacks," Kirch said. "We made a special one with a black band that we gave to the Marshall firefighters because they lost 'brothers and sisters in New York.' We also gave some of the same ribbons to the Madison County Sheriff's Department, Monrovia Volunteer Fire Department and others, such as state troopers and Madison City police officers."

They also have a version with a yellow ribbon attached for those who have family serving in the military in this conflict.

"This project was my wife's idea," Kirch said. "Her goal was to paint as much of north Alabama with red, white and blue as possible. My part sounded something like this:

"Hello, My name is Ed Kirch and I'm on a mission. My wife, the boss, wants me to cover as much of the NASA facility with red, white and blue as possible. All we ask is you wear it with pride.

"God Bless America!"

The writer, employed by ASRI, is the Marshall Star editor.



Photo by Dennis Olive, NASA/MSFC

Kirch, left, presents Daisy Chandler of Creative Management Technology.

ASME honors Jan Davis

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers at the International Mechanical Engineering Congress and Exposition Nov. 11-16 in New York will honor Dr. N. Jan Davis, director of Marshall's Flight Projects Directorate.

She will receive the society's Ralph Coats Roe Medal for presenting more than 300 public speeches, school presentations and government briefings promoting the engineer's value to society and for her historic role as payload commander aboard the STS-85 Space Shuttle mission.



Davis

The medal, established in 1972, recognizes an outstanding contribution toward a better public understanding and appreciation of the engineer's worth to contemporary society.

In addition to presenting more than 300 speeches, Davis authored several technical papers and, while serving as chairperson of the

NASA Education Working Group, led a group of educators, film producers, public affairs personnel, technical specialists and astronauts in the production of educational videotapes filmed in space. These efforts have provided a significant contribution to public understanding and appreciation of the engineer's worth to society.

ASME International is a 125,000-member organization focused on technical, educational and research issues.

"Marshall Stars" is a column featured in the Marshall Star to recognize employees and contractors who have made significant contributions to NASA and the Marshall Center by taking significant strides in leadership and dedication to their professional and/or educational development. Submit your nominations for consideration to Debra Valine, CD40, or call 544-3749.

NASA Administrator Goldin receives French Legion of Honor Award

NASA news release

In ceremonies last week in Washington, NASA Administrator Dan Goldin was awarded one of France's highest and most distinguished honors, the "Officer of the Legion of Honor."

Goldin was recognized for his contributions to the development and broadening of American-French civil space cooperation. The Administrator was presented with the award by the Ambassador of France, His Excellency Francois Bujon de l'Etang, at a ceremony at the French Ambassador's residence.

"It is a rare and distinct privilege to be included among the many illustrious individuals throughout history who have been granted this prestigious award, and I am very honored," Goldin said.

"The award's genesis is rooted in a period of French history when its explorers were boldly expanding the frontiers of the New World," Goldin said. "Today, the French people are building on that legacy of exploration by helping NASA and our other strategic partners boldly expand the frontier of space with the International Space Station.

In addition, NASA is working with the French space agency (CNES) in areas such as Mars exploration, Earth observation and the flight of French astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle, all of which are testimony to a vigorous and robust cooperative program between the two agencies."

Napoleon created the Legion of Honor in 1802 to reward military and civil merits in the service of France.

From the beginning, the honor has been conferred on eminent persons in all walks of life — members of the military, magistrates, administrators and civil servants as well as people of distinguished achievements in the arts, fine arts, teaching, agriculture, trade and industry.

Today, the Legion of Honor is awarded to French citizens as well as non-French individuals to recognize outstanding contributions to humankind.

Edward A. Frankle, NASA general counsel, to retire

NASA news release

Edward A. Frankle, NASA's general counsel for the past 13 years, announced plans to retire after a distinguished career, effective Dec. 28. No successor has been selected.

Frankle, who was appointed to the position as NASA's chief legal officer in July 1988, said it is time to leave the

federal government and enter the private sector.

"Despite my current job satisfaction and belief that I am still contributing to the NASA mission, the time has come to strike out on my own," Frankle said in his retirement notice to NASA Administrator Dan Goldin.

As general counsel, Frankle is respon-

sible for the legal aspects of all NASA's activities, providing direct legal support to the NASA administrator and senior management. He also manages the Agency's intellectual property and ethics programs and directing a staff of attorneys. Frankle also provides legal guidance and support to the legal staff at NASA's field centers.

Key Personnel Announcement

Durham named CD40 manager

Steven Durham has been selected manager of the Internal Relations and Communications Department within Marshall's Customer and Employee and Relations Directorate. He formerly served as a strategic planning analyst in the department.

The Internal Relations and Communications Department serves as the Center's focal point for all internal communications, such as directorate roundtables, "Inside Marshall," "Marshall Star," "Daily Planet," "Marshall Homepage," Employee TV, message boards and other electronic distribution systems. The department also facilitates strategic and implementation



Durham

planning activities. In addition, the department is responsible for gathering and disseminating historical information to the Marshall community.

Durham joined Marshall in 1991 as a contract specialist in the Space Shuttle Main Engine Branch of the Procurement Office. In 1998 he transferred to the Internal Relations and Communications Department as a strategic planning specialist, and was named to the strategic planning analyst position in 2000.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Shuttle Motor Test

Continued from page 1

gauge the components' ability to meet flight requirements. The test simulates many of the conditions that would be experienced in flight.

The test is part of the Shuttle's on-going safety program to verify materials and manufacturing processes. There are 10 principal objectives for the test of Engineering Test Motor-2 (ETM-2). The Marshall Center requires the static — or stationary — test before new materials or processes are included in motors flown on the Space Shuttle.

During the next several months, the data will be analyzed and the results for each objective provided in a final report. The metal case segments and nozzle components will be refurbished for reuse.

The writer, employed by ASRI, supports the Media Relations Department.

Agreements

Continued from page 1

agreements do not replace or take away from the engineering support already being provided by Sverdrup Technology Inc.

"This initiative will support the Space Transportation, Engineering and Science directorates and the Systems Management Office," said Michael Sweigart, a contracting officer with the Procurement Office. "It will also be used to support the Space Launch Initiative."

Firms receiving the Blanket Purchase Agreements were competitively selected from the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Schedule for professional engineering services. Firms selected for award include large, small and small-disadvantaged businesses located in Huntsville, as well as across the country.

The Marshall Center will compete future task orders for services among these contractors with selection based on best overall value to the Center. The agreements have a minimum value of \$25,000 and a maximum value estimated at between \$3-5 million per year through Oct. 31, 2005.

Firms awarded Blanket Purchase Agreements

- Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp., Boulder, Colo.;
- Boeing Service Company, Seabrook, Md.;
- Booz Allen & Hamilton, McLean, Va.;
- Computer Sciences Corporation, Fairfax, Va.;
- ELMCO Inc., Huntsville, Ala.;
- Futron Corporation, Bethesda, Md.;
- ITT Industries, Reston, Va.;
- Lockheed Martin Integrated Systems Inc., Tinton Falls, N.J.;
- Madison Research Corporation, Huntsville, Ala.;
- MEVATEC Corporation, Huntsville, Ala.;
- Micro Craft Inc., Tullahoma, Tenn.;
- MSE Technology Applications, Butte, Mont.;
- Oceaneering Space Systems, Houston, Texas.;
- Orbital Sciences Corporation, Greenbelt, Md.;
- Raytheon Aerospace Engineering Services, Houston, Texas.;
- Science Applications International Corporation, Huntsville, Ala.;
- System Studies and Simulation Inc., Huntsville, Ala.;
- Swales Aerospace, Beltsville, Md.;
- Northrop Grumman Information Technology, Reading, Mass.;
- Teledyne Brown Engineering Inc., Huntsville, Ala.

Obituary

Grant, Lynnon F., 69, of Madison, died Oct. 30. He worked as an aerospace engineer in Marshall's Space Shuttle Main Engine Project Office and had been a NASA employee since 1963. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and four children: Gary Lynnon Grant, Glynn Irl Grant, Gayle Ruth Grant Hagwood, and Gil Smith Grant. Donations may be made to the Leukemia Foundation.

On External Tanks

Marshall gets go-ahead for new welding technique

Marshall/Lockheed Martin news release

Marshall scientists and engineers have developed a procedure for using Friction Stir Welding on the Space Shuttle's External Tank, and last month received the go-ahead, through a Critical Design Review, to proceed on key modifications for ET-134 and beyond.

The review, held at Marshall's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, led to the approval of several upgrades to manufacturing processes and materials used in the manufacture of the External Tank.

Changes include using the Friction Stir Weld technique, new weld wire, new Aluminum Alloy and reverting to Aluminum 2219 material — used on External Tanks prior to the Super Lightweight Tank — on various tank sections, along with design improvements.

"These changes support several Space Shuttle program initiatives, enhance safety and reliability with stronger welds and fewer repairs, reduce cycle time and lower costs," said Mike Quiggle, manager of producibility enhancements at Michoud.

The most innovative change is Friction Stir Welding, a process originally invented in the United Kingdom, which Marshall and Lockheed Martin scientists have spent the past six years adapting for

the External Tank.

"Friction Stir Welding is a process that uses a rotating pin tool to soften, stir and forge a bond between two metal plates," said Jeff Ding, a welding engineer in the Materials, Processes and Manufacturing Department of Marshall's Engineering Directorate. "Because this method does not melt the material as fusion-welding techniques do, the weld has excellent mechanical properties and exhibits very little shrinkage or distortion, even in long welds."

This translates to stronger welds with virtually no defects, reducing the overall External Tank fabrication schedule.

"We are trying to do this as a block change," said Stephen Brettel, manager of the External Tank Upgrade Projects, "rather than implement the changes one at a time. Every time you make a change, you impact many drawings and a great deal of engineering process instructions. By grouping changes together, the implementation cost and schedule are vastly reduced.

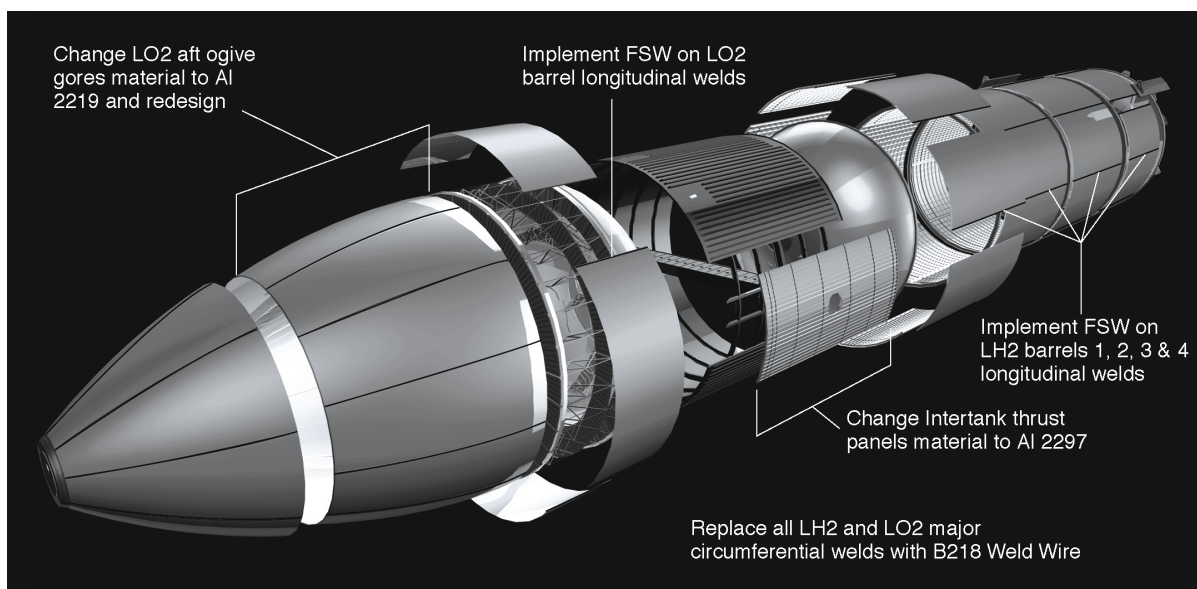
"The most innovative aspect of Friction Stir Welding is the simplification of the process over the currently used fusion weld technique," Brettel said. "Fusion welds are high-energy complex processes that require interdependency on

many elements, such as amperage, voltage, weld wire, shield gas, purge gas, weld rods, travel speeds and standoff distances. Friction Stir Welds are more likened to a machining operation since the principle parameters are travel speed, plunge force and rotation speed, all of which are easily controlled."

The new welding technique reduces problems associated with fusion welding and provides weld properties that are close to parent metal — nearly like the original material. "This is a major safety enhancement because of the significant increases in weld strength which translates into increased weld margins for flight," Brettel said.

The new Aluminum Alloy, AL 2297, used for the Intertank thrust panels will allow the External Tank project to maintain Super Lightweight Tank performance, and compensate for heavier, more robust Aluminum 2219 material which will be used on the Aft Ogives of the Liquid Oxygen Tank.

"These modifications are crucial to our commitment to mission success, and are essential in meeting and maintaining Lockheed Martin's contractual commitments to NASA," said Ron Wetmore, Lockheed Martin's External Tank program manager at Michoud.





Local children win poster contest



Photos by Emmett Given, NASA/MSFC

Jordan Benson, left, a third grader at Monrovia Elementary School, receives an award for his Combined Federal Campaign Poster from Chris Robinson, the campaign's executive co-chairman for promotion. Jordan's poster is at left.



Jacob Garrison, left, a third grader at FE Burleson Elementary School in Hartselle, receives an award for his Combined Federal Campaign poster from Robinson. Jacob's poster is at right.



CFC contributions nearing goal

Marshall Center employees have donated \$410,935 through the fourth week of the 2001 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), which ends Nov. 19. The goal is \$450,000.

Organizations reaching 100 percent participation so far include: AD02, AD03, AD40, AD41, AD42, CD40, CD50, DD01, DE01, ED40, FD10, FD24, FD30, FD32, LS01, MP31, MP71, OS01, SD01, SD03, SD10, SD48, TD12, VS01, VS10 and YS01.

Participation Centerwide is at 54 percent. Center Director Art Stephenson has issued a challenge that he will wash an employee's car — selected at random — if the Center obtains 90 percent participation. The employee who owns the car gets to hold the hose.



As of Nov. 6, the campaign pledge total is \$410,935.



Space Station Expedition Two crew visits Marshall

International Space Station Expedition Two crew members Jim Voss, a native of Opelika, Ala., and graduate of Auburn University, and Susan Helms visited the Marshall Center Oct. 30.

During Voss and Helms' five-month watch, the Space Station's joint airlock — Quest — was installed and the Destiny laboratory was outfitted with science equipment racks. Both Quest and Destiny were built in Huntsville by Boeing. Quest, a doorway to space, allows crew members to make spacewalks when a Shuttle isn't docked to the Station. The Marshall Center also is responsible for managing Space Station science experiments.

The crew showed a video in Morris Auditorium and talked about their mission, signed autographs and joined the Flight Projects Directorate for their 3rd annual Chili Challenge.



Photos by Emmett Given, NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center

Sharon Hancock sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" while astronauts Jim Voss and Susan Helms look on.



Susan Helms, left, greets Lockheed Martin employee Ed Kirch during the autograph signing session.



All aboard the Space Shuttle All STAR Express

by Kay Anderson
Thiokol Propulsion

The boosters that provide two-thirds of the initial thrust for the Space Shuttle include eight reusable solid rocket motor (RSRM) segments manufactured by ATK Thiokol Propulsion. Each of the segments is about 30 feet long, a little over 12 feet in diameter and weigh between 250,000 and 325,000 pounds.

Due to the size and weight of these segments, rail was considered the most practical and efficient method of transporting them from Promontory, Utah, where they are manufactured, to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida where they are launched.

At the beginning of the Space Shuttle program, segments were shipped as needed. As a stable launch rate was developed, the segments were sent in groups of four at a time. A trip from Utah to Florida with "expedited" rail service got a shipment of four RSRM segments to Kennedy Space Center in about 11 days.

"The eight-segment shipment decision was made jointly by NASA project management and Thiokol management

after Thiokol and NASA logistics groups provided a recommendation based on their thorough study of the safety, risk and cost benefits," said Rick Burt, deputy manager of Marshall's Reusable Solid Rocket Motor Office.

The resulting shipping process reduces the transit time from approximately 20 days per flight set to seven days. Eight-segment shipments minimize the time spent in rail yards and on sidings, eliminate switching activities, and significantly reduce potential harm to the general public, the environment and NASA critical hardware.

In addition to important safety improvements, shipping eight segments reduces the overall number of shipments resulting in a reduction in transportation costs.

ATK Thiokol Propulsion and the rail carriers have transportation agreements in place dictating special handling requirements to ensure a safe and timely delivery of the motors. The agreements require "dedicated" or "special" train service (RSRM segments making up the entire train), "run through" power (same engine across the entire trip), speed limitation,

special handling in the yards, etc. These agreements and the rail carrier's commitment to safety and service ensure a smooth ride for these tactical machines.

To heighten the awareness, visibility and recognition of the train, Thiokol, NASA and the rail carriers sponsored a "Name the Train" contest within the railroads. The winning entry, "All STAR Express," will be used to identify the rocket motor train as it moves along the rails to Kennedy Space Center. All STAR Express stands for an ALL STAR group of rail carriers: Union Pacific Railroad, Kansas City Southern Railway, CSX Transportation and Florida East Coast Railway — Safely Transporting America's Rocket motors.

This "identifier" will ensure proper notification at the rail carriers and their obligation to provide the initiatives and agreements required for safe transportation of the RSRM segments.

"This train, the All STAR Express, is a part of us (the railroads)," commented one of the railroad workers. "We will move it with expert care. Our service will be the pride of Thiokol, NASA and each rail carrier."

Dawn Walton's chili gets judges' vote as best

The Flight Projects Directorate held its 3rd Annual Chili Challenge Oct. 30. The Chili Challenge is an annual team-building event that includes all Flight Projects Directorate civil servants, contractors and those who support the directorate from various outside organizations.

Marshall Center Director Art Stephenson and Jim Voss and Susan Helms — the Expedition Two crew — joined the directorate for lunch.

Judges for this year's chili and booth decorating competition were Center Deputy Director Jim Kennedy; Associate Director Axel Roth; Tereasa Washington, director of the Customer and Employee Relations Directorate; and Ann Whitaker, director of the Science Directorate.

The competition consists of teams who come together with a theme and decorate a booth at the pavilion. Chili is served at each booth as well as in "Heartburn Alley" where those who are not participating in a booth can have their chili judged also. Bubba's catered the event so that attendees could enjoy a full chili meal after testing the contestants' offerings.

There was also a costume contest and team building games. In addition to these activities, 12 Group Achievement Awards were presented, as well as 26 Certificates of Appreciation and one plaque. People's Choice awards were collected by penny votes and the proceeds will be donated to the September 11th relief effort.

Winners of this year's competition were:

- Judge's choice chili — FD42/Dawn Walton
- Judge's choice booth — FD 40/41/42/Hillbilly Chili
- People's choice chili — FD21/Charles Morrison
- People's choice booth — FD21/ECLSS
- Costumes — No. 1 — The HOSC
- Costumes — No. 2 — FD40/41/42/Hillbillies
- Costumes — No. 3 — FD33/Pam Stone



Photo by Jeff Wolfe, NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center

Marshall Center Associate Director Axel Roth, left, and Expedition Two crew member Jim Voss judge chili.



Dawn Walton, left, made the best chili, according to judges. Tina Swindell presents her with a plaque.



The Huntsville Operations Support Center took first place in the costumes contest.

The People's Choice best chili award went to Charles Morrison. Flight Projects Directorate Director Jan Davis, left, presents the award to Morrison.

Start getting ready

New Marshall Wellness Center to open early 2002

by Debra Valine

If you're planning to use the new Marshall Wellness Center on Digney Road when it opens early next year, you might want to start getting your documentation in order. To use the facility, individuals — this includes on-site contractors — will need to have clearance from a doctor before joining.

"Having clearance from a physician before participating in activities at the wellness center is required by NASA Headquarters," said Exchange Manager Bill Mayo. "Individuals will need to bring their medical clearance and participate in an orientation class to familiarize them with the equipment and services available before using the facility."

The center, in Bldg. 4315, will be open to NASA employees, retirees and their families, and on-site contractors.

NASA employees may use the facility free of charge. Employee family members and NASA retirees will pay an \$80 annual fee. For the first time, contractors are authorized to use the facility. Contractors will pay \$180 per year or \$90 for a six-month period.

Additional fees of \$25 per year for a small locker and \$35 for a large locker also will be charged. "Individuals who currently have a locker can reserve a locker in the new facility," said exercise physiologist Lana Hart. "Others can sign up for one when they join and pay their dues."

The new facility will offer a broad range of fitness activities, including cardio machines, free weights and resistance machines, aerobics classes, gymnasium, racquetball courts, locker rooms and showers. The facility also will feature cardio-theater — four television sets and music to choose from during workouts. Through the use of earphones, each exerciser can select his or her



Photo by Terry Leibold, NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center

Marshall's Wellness Center on Digney Road nearing completion.

own style of television or music.

Additional services include physical and massage therapy by appointment. To schedule physical therapy, call Jennifer Hicks at 517-7101. To schedule massage, call Katherine Harris at 920-9104.

Until the new center opens, the Marshall Exchange Fitness Center in Bldg. 4752 is open daily from 4:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information about wellness and fitness center activities, call Bill Mayo at 544-7564 or Lana Hart at 544-3337 or visit the NASA Exchange Web site at:

<http://inside.msfc.nasa.gov/MARS/index.html>

The writer, employed by ASRI, is the Marshall Star editor.

Nominees sought for positions on Marshall Exchange Council

A special nominating committee is accepting names of nominees from employees for an election to fill one position on the Marshall Exchange Council.

The committee will accept names of nominees when accompanied by a petition signed by 20 or more employees. Employees may make nominations at large and there is no requirement that nominees and petitioners be from the same organization. Petitions must bear the signature of the nominee indicating a

willingness to serve, if elected. Petitioners must provide their Marshall badge number in addition to their signature.

Each candidate must have served as a Marshall employee for not less than one year. The term of office is two years. No Marshall employee may serve concurrently as a member of the council and as an officer of any Exchange-sponsored club or activity.

Deadline for submitting nominations is close of business, Nov. 21. Petitions should be mailed to exchange Council Election, CD10X, Bldg. 4752.

The new council member will take office in the new year and join two other elected members. In addition, the Center Director appoints four members of the seven-person council: the chairman, operations manager, treasurer and secretary.

A list of nominees and voting instructions will be printed in the Nov. 29 issue of the "Marshall Star" and concurrently, ballots will be mailed to all employees.

Center Announcements

FEHB Open Season

The 2002 Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Open Season will be Nov. 12 through Dec. 10. This is an opportunity to enroll, change plans or change from self only to family coverage. All changes during the open season will be effective Jan. 13, 2002. A Health Fair for all employees will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 15 in Bldg. 4200, room G-13E. The health carriers that will be attending are Blue Cross/Blue Shield, GEHA and Mail Handlers. For more information, access the OPM Web site at: www.opm.gov/insure/02/ or call Debbie Allen at 544-7536.

TSP Open Season

Nov. 15 through Jan. 31, 2002, is the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season. This is a chance to start or change the amount of your contributions to your Thrift Savings Plan account. If you are covered by CSRS, you can elect to contribute up to 7 percent of your basic pay each pay period; or if you are covered by FERS, you can contribute up to 12 percent of your basic pay each pay period, up to the IRS limit of \$11,000 for 2002. If you elect to enroll or increase funds in the TSP, you can obtain a TSP-1 Form off the TSP Web site www.tsp.gov or an electronic transaction may be processed through Employee Express at: www.employeeexpress.gov. The completed Form TSP-1 may be submitted to the Human Resources Department/CD10, Bldg. 4200, rooms 324 and 328. Employees have a choice of five different funds. The investment allocation Form TSP-50 is to be used for contribution allocations or interfund transfers at any time using the TSP Web site or the ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777. The TSP-50 Form, available in 4200/Rooms 324 or 328, is to be completed by the employee and sent directly to TSP. Changes will be effective Jan. 13, 2002. For more information, call Ginger Martin at 544-5654, or Debbie Allen at 544-7536.

Veterans Day Parade

Huntsville's Veterans Day Parade will begin at 11 a.m. Nov. 12. Marshall's team — in position No. 78, which is in the second half of the parade — will assemble at 8:30 a.m. at the Huntsville Hilton on Lowe Street. The second half of the parade will enter the assembly area by using Adams to get to Lowe Street. Check out the parade route on the Web at: www.waff.com. The route is approximately two miles long. Marshall Center veterans are invited to participate. To participate, call Shelve Miller at 544-0090 by Nov. 8.

Veteran's Museum opens

The Alabama Center of Military History, which operates the new Veteran's Memorial Museum located at the "old airport," will have its grand opening at 11 a.m. on Nov. 10 — Veteran's Day weekend. For more information, call Milt Aiken or Randy Withrow at 883-3737 or visit the Web at: <http://www.longgreylinefarm.com/~ACMH.htm>

Flu shots

The Marshall Medical Center has received its full order of flu vaccine. Employees who want this protection will get it. Flu shots will be available for all employees from noon-3 p.m. Nov. 14 in Bldg. 4610, room 1054.

Payroll office open house

The Consolidated Payroll Office is having an open house from 8 a.m.-noon Nov. 14 in Bldg. 4200, room 612. For more information, call 544-7345.

Clubs and Meetings

NARFE meets

Chris Alexander of Blue Cross/Blue Shield will review and explain changes in the plan's coverages for those enrolled beginning in January at the

meeting of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the Senior Center on Drake Avenue. For more information, call 881-4944 or 881-3168.

Genealogical Society meets

Learn to research your Irish roots at the Huntsville Genealogical Computing Society's monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Nov. 19 in the auditorium of the Huntsville-Madison County Main Library. Visitors are always welcome. Reservations not required.

Miscellaneous

Online auctions

Redstone Arsenal's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department will be conducting online property auctions on items as they become available. For more information, visit the Web at: www.redstonemwr.com

NASA Exchange

'Something's Afoot' tickets

NASA employees, retirees and contractors will receive a \$1 discount on tickets to "Something's Afoot" by showing their NASA badge at the Ars Nova Box Office of the Von Braun Center Playhouse. Showtimes are Nov. 9-10 and 16-17 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 11 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 and \$22 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. All seats are reserved. For more information, call 883-1105.

Annual nut sale

The NASA Exchange annual nut sale begins Nov. 16. Sales will be from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday (excluding holidays) in Bldg. 4752 on racquetball court No. 3 on a first-come/first-serve basis. For more information, call 544-7565.

Employee Ads

Miscellaneous

- ★ Gorilla Amp, low volume amp w/head-phone jack, perfect for beginner guitarists, \$30. 883-5396
- ★ Computer desk with hutch, \$90; computer desk, \$50; floral sofa, \$250, Flatbed scanner, \$100. (256) 534-0939
- ★ Beanie babies and buddy's, some are in sets, make an offer. (256) 539-9777
- ★ Portable generator, 4400 watts, 120/240 VAC, push button start, \$500. 882-2973
- ★ Rohn antenna tower, type 25G, 54' high, six segments. 539-7855
- ★ Twelve pleated air filters for home or business, 16"x25"x2", heavy duty, \$20. 325-6000
- ★ Dept. 56 Snow Village houses and accessories, most retired, asking lower than green book value. 837-0037
- ★ Little Tykes racecar bed, uses crib mattress, mattress not included, \$75. 353-6358
- ★ Regulation size fold-up Ping Pong table, four paddles and balls, \$40. 682-5181
- ★ Chess collection, new never played. 837-0261
- ★ Kenmore washer and dryer, \$250 for both. 652-8383
- ★ Coffee table, two end tables, mahogany with leather top, \$200. 880-0199
- ★ Berkline recliner, extra large, burgundy with gold stripes, 1 yr. old, \$200. 828-9651
- ★ Invacare commode for handicapped, \$30. 883-2948
- ★ Oak and wrought iron ice cream parlor table and 2 chairs, \$200 obo. 230-0557
- ★ Lovely long country curtains, wide ruffled, handmade, soft solid yellow, 2 sets, full-size bed skirt, \$35. 461-8369
- ★ Mikasa Marguax china, eight 5-piece settings, serving bowl, serving platter, dishwasher safe, best offer. 233-8595
- ★ Matching sofa and chaise lounge chair, flame stitch burgundy/green/taupe, \$185 for both. 883-9278
- ★ Baby items: two Graco swings, \$40 each; two Graco walkers, \$35 each; bassinet, \$40; infant clothing. 885-0851 after 6 p.m.
- ★ Large solid oak custom-made entertain-

- ment center, fits 27" TV, \$450. 461-8369
- ★ 1991 Dynasty bow rider, 19-1/2' I/O, 3.7L Mercruiser w/Alpha one out drive, trailer, \$7,000. (256) 651-0649 day/881-3811 evening
- ★ Two Bose 301 Series II direct/reflecting speakers, \$100. 508-2410
- ★ Four 15" chrome Prime Tri-Stars w/Dunlop GT Qualifiers, one slightly damaged, \$550 obo. 830-0248
- ★ Hide-A-Bed couch, full size bed, beige and brown upholstery, \$125. 232-8311
- ★ Camper shell for Chevy S-10, GMC, etc. pickup trucks, like new, top of line hi rise fiberglass, \$475. 922-1508
- ★ New burgundy lift chair with battery backup, \$500. 883-8639
- ★ Fish/terrarium/reptile/plant/tank, 2' x 5', 10" high, glass sides & tile bottom, no leaks. Any offer. 828-6213
- ★ Spode Georgian Blueroom Collection in green, set of 6 plates, \$50. 882-1097
- ★ Motorcycle helmet/full face, small size, new, never worn, red and gray design, \$60 OBO. 864-0465
- ★ Alabama vs. Mississippi State tickets, Nov. 10. Two pair at \$100/each pair. 655-3065
- ★ Oak coffee table and 2 matching end tables. Whitewash finish, beveled glass. 539-0507
- ★ Brunswick pool table, 2 yrs. old, paragon oak w/cherry finish, 1" slate, drop leather pockets, \$2,300 obo. 883-6415
- ★ Four tickets to Alabama vs. Mississippi game Nov. 10. 883-1195

Vehicles

- ★ 1998 Jeep Wrangler, 13K miles, new tires, premium sound, leather seats, 5-speed, \$13,500. 534-3252
- ★ 1983 Suburban, towing package, 350, V-8, \$1,399. 880-8359
- ★ 1987 GMC suburban CID, auto, overdrive, 133K miles, CD player, new paint, chrome wheels, \$1,975 firm. (256) 753-2278
- ★ 1990 Chevy G20 conversion van, 53K miles, \$4,950. 883-2063
- ★ 1990 Chevrolet Cavalier, 4-door, automatic, \$1,300. (256) 509-4999
- ★ 1994 Maxima GXE, white w/gray interior, AM/FM cassette, 83K miles, \$6,500. 881-

8674

- ★ 1993 Isuzu pickup, interior/exterior excellent, needs engine work, \$1,000 negotiable. (256) 227-4544
- ★ 1995 Toyota Camry, tan, 4-cyl., automatic, all-power, leather interior w/roof slider, 110K miles, 34 mpg, \$9,750. 931-273-3212
- ★ 1990 Chevy 2500 pickup, 4WD, gooseneck hitch, bed liner, 97K miles, \$5,100. 880-2290
- ★ 1999 Honda CRV, automatic, 4WD, CD player, luggage rack, garage kept, 32K miles, under warranty, \$17,500. 353-0370 after 5 p.m./leave msg.
- ★ 1998 Explorer, Eddie Bauer, 4x4, moon-roof, leather interior, power, 6-CD changer, many more options, \$15,495. 852-4359
- ★ 1996 C-150 GMC Sierra, ext. cab, camper shell, 89K miles, \$14,500. 837-2223
- ★ 1998 Toyota Tacoma SR5, ext. cab, V-6, 4X4, 5 speed, TRD package, bedliner, toolbox, 47,000 miles, \$16,200. 586-7797
- ★ 1991 Toyota 4X4 truck, 4 cyl. 5 speed, deluxe cab, 125K miles, \$4650 OBO. 837-1405
- ★ 1990 Oldsmobile Silhouette minivan, alloy wheels, leather, 124K miles, \$1,300. 350-7461
- ★ 1969 Camaro, new 400 SB, 4-speed Muncie, 3.73 rear end, needs paint & upholstery, \$9000 obo. 883-6415
- ★ 1991 Celica ST, 4-cyl., 5 speed, a/c, 145K. Recumbent bicycle, reasonable \$3,500. 880-9025

Wanted

- ★ Baritone/Euphonium, playable condition. 544-4625
- ★ Captain's bed or twin bed, no mattress needed. (256) 539-9777
- ★ Adjustable music stand in good shape. 534-3809
- ★ 17" color monitor, .26, in good condition, \$50. 534-7212

Lost

- ★ Diamond earring and gold earring jacket, Nov. 1 in Bldg. 4200 complex. 544-0308
- ★ Gold bracelet, 4201 area, reward, 883-1195

MARSHALL STAR

Vol. 42/No. 10

Marshall Space Flight Center, Alabama 35812
(256) 544-0030
<http://www1.msfc.nasa.gov>

The Marshall Star is published every Thursday by the Internal Relations and Communications Department at the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Contributions should be submitted no later than Monday noon to the Marshall Internal Relations and Communications Department (CD40), Bldg. 4200, room 101. Submissions should be written legibly and include the originator's name. Send electronic mail submissions to: intercom@msfc.nasa.gov The Marshall Star does not publish commercial advertising of any kind.

Manager of Internal Relations
and Communications — Steven Durham
Editor — Debra Valine

U.S. Government Printing Office 2002-733-060-20073

PRE-SORT STANDARD
Postage & Fees PAID
NASA
Permit No. G-27